

Robert E. Kildall

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November 25, 2002

Attn: U.S. Representative Jim McDermott
1035 Longworth HOB
Washington D.C. 20515-0001

Dear Representative Mc Dermott:

RE: Adding the West Point Lighthouse to Discovery Park

The West Point Lighthouse on the Discovery Park beach is one of 20 lighthouses being given away by the Federal Government.ⁱ Interior Secretary Gale Norton oversees the National Lighthouse Preservation Program. She makes the decision on who gets the West Point Lighthouse.

Built 122 years ago at a cost of \$25,000 the West Point beacon first lit up on in November 15, 1881.ⁱⁱ Lighthouse exhibits at West Point include an old fog bell, used on early lightships and lighthouses and inside the light lens itself, is a famous fourth-order Fresnel lens.ⁱⁱⁱ

The Park Department and Citizens, who worked so hard to create this extraordinarily beautiful and natural Park need help and assurance that the lighthouse and surrounding beach property, will be released to the City and added to Discovery Park.

Dan Urban Kiley, Discovery Park's planner, wrote in his 1972 Master Plan that the City's should eventually acquire the entire Fort Lawton site.^{iv} "...We would urge the citizens of Seattle to continue unabated their efforts to acquire for park purposes all lands which are not required by the Federal Government."^v The City has consistently pursued this objective.

Transferring it to the City's hands will assure that the continuity of the goals Secretary Norton set out would be maintained into perpetuity.

The West Point Lighthouse would be a priceless addition to the Park's outdoors-environmental education program. This Park program has been named the state's finest.^{vi} The West Point Lighthouse property is listed as historic. The Park rangers and docents have for years maintained another listed district in the Park—the Fort Lawton Historic District. They provide classes, tours and educational material of the Old Fort Buildings and grounds. With a similar program for the lighthouse the City will fully meet all the requirements of the Lighthouse Preservation Program.

I am just one of the many lighthouse buffs who is enthusiastic about and have a wide knowledge about U.S. Lighthouses. I believe the Seattle Parks and Recreation Department can best maintain the site, is capable of presenting it to the interested public like myself, and will insure stewardship for decades and decades to come.

Whatever help you can give to see the West Point Lighthouse becomes a part of Discovery Park is important. Support from the Washington State representatives would lend immense strength to a request for the property.

Sincerely yours,

Robert Kildall

ENDNOTES

ⁱ Wallace, Kathryn "Own a Part of Our History" *Parade Magazine* 29Sep2002:4-5

ⁱⁱ Roberts, Bruce & Jones Ray, *Pacific Northwest Lighthouses*, The Globe Pequot Press, Old Saybrook, Conn.1997:44-45

ⁱⁱⁱ Crompton, Samuel Willard *"The Lighthouse Book,"* Barnes & Noble, New York, NY 1999:77

^{iv} Kiley, Dan Urban, *"Fort Lawton Park Master Plan*, November 1972: 3

^v Kiley, Dan Urban, *"Fort Lawton Park Master Plan*, November 1972: 3

^{vi} Friends of Discovery Park newsletter, *Explorer*, Winter 1994:3

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December 2, 2002

Attn: U.S. Senator Patty Murray
173 Russell Senate Office Bldg.
Washington D.C. 20510-0001

Dear Senator Murray:

RE: Adding the West Point Lighthouse to Discovery Park

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Whatever help you can give to see the West Point Lighthouse becomes a part of Discovery Park is important. Support from the Washington State's Senators and Representatives would lend immense strength to a request for the property.

Sincerely yours,

Robert Kildall

Cc: Sen. Maria Cantwell

ENDNOTES

ⁱ Wallace, Kathryn "Own a Part of Our History" *Parade Magazine* 29Sep2002:4-5

ⁱⁱ Roberts, Bruce & Jones Ray, *Pacific Northwest Lighthouses*, The Globe Pequot Press, Old Saybrook, Conn.1997:44-45

ⁱⁱⁱ Crompton, Samuel Willard *"The Lighthouse Book,"* Barnes & Noble, New York, NY 1999:77

^{iv} Kiley, Dan Urban, "Fort Lawton Park Master Plan, November 1972: 3

^v Friends of Discovery Park newsletter, *Explorer*, Winter 1994:3



Peter Lape, Ph.D.
Curator of Archaeology
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May 2, 2003

Jonathon B. Jarvis
Regional Director
National Park Service
1111 Jackson St., Ste 700
Oakland, CA 94510-4816

Dear Mr. Jarvis:

I am writing in support of an application by Seattle Parks and Recreation for use of the West Point lighthouse property in Seattle Washington. Seattle Parks has contacted the Burke Museum about cooperating to bring cultural heritage exhibits and education programs to this facility, and we believe that this represents an exciting opportunity to broaden the scope of the excellent public education programs currently available in the adjacent Discovery Park.

Current programs in Discovery Park focus primarily on the natural history of the West Point landscape, and do not emphasize the long term human presence there. However, West Point has been used and occupied by both Native Americans and more recent immigrants for at least 4200 years. In 1992, a major archaeological site was discovered and excavated on the site of a King County sewage treatment plant, just a hundred yards from the West Point lighthouse. This site provides the oldest evidence for human presence on central Puget Sound, and also provided key clues of a devastating earthquake that happened 1100 years ago, dramatically altering the landscape.

The Burke Museum currently houses the collection of over 35,000 artifacts from this excavation, and we have been working with three Native American tribes in the region (the Muckleshoot, Suquamish and Tulalip Tribes) to maintain the collection and use it to educate the public about Native American history. We have developed education kits, curricula, museum and site tours, and are currently engaged in a major research project investigating the links between diet and diabetes using the archaeological evidence from this site.

For the past year, Burke Museum and Discovery Park staff have been planning to install outdoor signage near the archaeological site on park property. However, this new opportunity for use of the West Point lighthouse property offers us all a chance to bring this information to the public in a highly visible way. We envision working with the City and Tribes to bring exhibits and

education programs to the lighthouse to tell the story of thousands of years of Native American presence in what is now a much altered urban landscape.

We believe this is an especially appropriate use of this special property, and look forward to working together with our government and tribal partners to bring this vision to reality.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Peter Lape', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Dr. Peter Lape
Curator of Archaeology